

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 500

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study recycling enhancement, litter reduction and related issues.

WHEREAS, every year in Tennessee excessive amounts of litter are discarded along highways, shorelines, and hiking trails and onto privately owned farmland abutting such highways; and

WHEREAS, the result of such littering results in an increase in litter collection and disposal costs, degradation of the state's scenic beauty, damage to farm equipment and injury to domestic livestock; and

WHEREAS, much of the litter collected includes beverage containers and packaging from food items consumed in automobiles or other motor vehicles, all items that are being discarded as litter rather than recycled; such items, when not discarded as litter, are often disposed as household waste rather than being recycled; and

WHEREAS, in both instances the disposal of these items represents a loss of valuable materials for re-use and an increase in local waste disposal costs; and

WHEREAS, present law in Tennessee does not adequately address these issues, thus creating an inability to resolve the concerns of citizens in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, other states have enacted legislation and implemented programs to alleviate the problems associated with litter and lack of recycling, giving state government more responsibility and authority in this important area; and

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WHEREAS, the many environmental, economic, tourism and other issues related to recycling enhancement and litter reduction directly affect the lives of many Tennesseans, and these important and timely issues should be carefully and exhaustively studied by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study recycling enhancement, litter reduction, and any other environmental, economic, tourism or related issues the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred and First General Assembly no later than February 1, 1999, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

